<u>**Listing of Claims:**</u>

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the

application:

1. (Currently amended) In a system providing video on demand (VOD) services via any of a

plurality of incompatible <u>and non-interoperable</u> VOD systems, a VOD gateway method

comprising:

<u>receiving a request from a receiver station for all currently available VOD assets;</u>

transmitting to each of the plurality of incompatible VOD systems a request for a

respective list of all currently available VOD assets;

receiving, in response to said request for a list of all currently available VOD assets from

each VOD system, a respective list of all currently available VOD assets from each one of the

plurality of incompatible <u>and non-interoperable</u> VOD systems, wherein each respective list is in a

~~different~~ protocol <u>unique to each of said plurality of incompatible and non-interoperable VOD</u>

<u>systems</u>;

translating at the VOD gateway each respective list received from each one of said

plurality of incompatible VOD systems into a generic protocol describing all currently available

VOD assets of each one of the plurality of incompatible VOD systems; and

aggregating the translated lists of all currently available VOD assets to form a combined

list of available VOD assets, the combined list of available VOD assets being adapted to be

compatible with a plurality of receiver stations.

2. (previously presented) A method in accordance with claim 1, further comprising:

in response to a request from a receiver station for a VOD asset, performing the steps of:

identifying which VOD system is associated with the requested VOD asset;

transmitting, to the identified VOD system, a compatible request for the VOD asset;

receiving the requested VOD asset from the identified VOD system;

adapting the received VOD asset to be compatible with the requesting receiver station; and

transacting for the requested VOD asset with the requesting receiver station and the identified VOD system.

3. (previously presented) A method in accordance with claim 2, wherein the requested VOD asset comprises one or more of a video program, an audio program, a graphic program and a text program.

4. (previously presented) A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein each of the incompatible VOD systems includes an asset management system for managing respective VOD assets and a business management system for managing transactions, said method further comprising:

communicating with each VOD asset management system using an asset gateway; and

communicating with each VOD business management system using a transaction gateway.

5. (previously presented) A method in accordance with claim 2, wherein a desired asset is

provided to a receiver station using one or both of digital storage media command and control

(DSM-CC) or real time streaming protocol (RTSP).

6-10 cancelled.

11. (Currently amended) In a broadcast communications system providing video on demand

(VOD) services from any of a plurality of incompatible and non-interoperable VOD systems via a

VOD gateway, a method comprising:

 transmitting to each of the plurality of incompatible VOD systems a request for a respective

list of all currently available VOD assets;

 receiving, in response to said request for a list of all currently available VOD assets from

each VOD system, a respective list of all currently available VOD assets from each one of the

plurality of incompatible non-interoperable VOD systems, wherein each respective list is in a

~~different~~ protocol unique to each of said plurality of incompatible and non-interoperable VOD

systems;

 translating at the VOD gateway each respective list received from each one of said plurality

of incompatible VOD systems into a generic protocol describing all currently available VOD

assets of each one of the plurality of incompatible VOD systems; and

 aggregating the translated lists of all currently available VOD assets to form a combined

list of available VOD assets, the combined list of available VOD assets being adapted to be

compatible with a plurality of receiver stations;

> receiving a request from a receiver station for a VOD asset; and

> in response to a request from a receiver station for a VOD asset, performing the steps of:

>> identifying which VOD system is associated with the requested VOD asset via the

received list of all currently available VOD assets from one of the plurality of

incompatible VOD systems;

>> transmitting, to the identified VOD system, a compatible request for the VOD asset;

>> receiving the requested VOD asset from the identified VOD system;

>> adapting the received VOD asset to be compatible with the requesting receiver

station; and

>> transacting for the requested VOD asset with the requesting receiver station and

the identified VOD system.

12. (cancelled).

13. (previously presented) In a broadcast communication system in accordance with claim 11,

wherein each of said VOD systems includes a VOD business management system, said method further

comprising:

> recording an event that said given VOD program was received at said receiving station as a

purchase event of said given VOD program; and

transmitting said purchase event of said given VOD program from said VOD gateway to

a corresponding VOD business management system.

14. (previously presented) A method in accordance with claim 13, wherein the requested VOD

asset comprises one or more of a video program, an audio program, a graphic program and a text

program.

15-17 cancelled.

18. (Currently amended) In a broadcast communications system having a transmitting station and

a receiving station, said transmitting station including incompatible and non-interoperable first and

second VOD systems each having a respective first and second VOD asset management system,

wherein said transmitting station includes a VOD gateway and said receiving station includes a

generic VOD client, a method comprising:

        receiving a request from a receiver station for all currently available VOD assets;

        transmitting a request from said VOD gateway to said first VOD asset management

system for a first list of all currently available VOD assets stored in said first VOD system;

        transmitting a request from said VOD gateway to said second VOD asset management

system for a second list of all currently available VOD assets stored in said second VOD system;

        receiving at said VOD gateway, in response to said requests to said first and second VOD

asset management system, said first and second lists of all currently available VOD assets in

stored in said first and second VOD systems, wherein said first and second lists of all currently

available VOD assets are in ~~different~~ protocols <u>unique to each of said first and second VOD</u>

<u>systems</u>;

　　　　translating at said VOD gateway said first and second lists into a generic protocol;

　　　　aggregating said first and second translated lists of all currently available VOD

assets to form a combined list of VOD assets;

　　　　transmitting from said receiving station to said VOD gateway a request for a list of

VOD assets; and

　　　　transmitting said combined list of VOD assets from said VOD gateway to said

receiving station.

19. (original) In a broadcast communication system in accordance with claim 18,

wherein said first and second VOD systems at said transmitting station further includes

respective first and second VOD servers, said method of operating said VOD gateway

further comprising:

　　　　selecting, at said receiving station a given VOD program from said combined list of

VOD assets;

　　　　receiving, at said VOD gateway, a request from said receiving station for said

given VOD program;

　　　　determining whether said request for said given VOD program specifies a VOD

program originating from said first VOD server or a VOD program originating from said

second VOD server;

forwarding said request for said given VOD program to said first VOD server if

said given VOD program originates from said first VOD server;

forwarding said request for said given VOD program to said second VOD server if

said given VOD program originates from said second VOD server; and receiving said

given VOD program at said receiving station.

20. (original) In a broadcast communication system in accordance with claim 19,

wherein said first and second VOD systems further includes respective first and second

VOD business management systems, said method further comprising:

recording the event that said given VOD program was received at said receiving

station as a purchase event of said given VOD program; and

transmitting said purchase event of said given VOD program from said VOD

gateway to said first VOD business management system if said given VOD program

originates from said first VOD server; and

transmitting said purchase event of said given VOD program from said VOD gateway to

said second VOD business management system if said given VOD program originates from said

second VOD server.

21. (original) A method in accordance with claim 20, wherein said given VOD program is a

video program.

22. (original) A method in accordance with claim 20, wherein said given VOD program is an

audio program.

23. (original) A method in accordance with claim 20, wherein said given VOD program is a

graphic program.

24. (original) A method in accordance with claim 20, wherein said given VOD program is a text

program.

25-30 cancelled.

31. (Currently amended) In a broadcast communication system having a transmitting station, a

receiving station and a VOD gateway, said broadcast communication system having a

transmitting station including respective first and second incompatible and non-interoperable

VOD systems, said first VOD system including a first VOD server, said second VOD system

including a second VOD server, and a receiving station, a method of operating said VOD

gateway comprising:

   receiving a request from a receiving station for all currently available VOD assets;

   transmitting a request from said VOD gateway to said first VOD server for a first

list of all currently available VOD assets stored in said first VOD server;

transmitting a request from said VOD gateway to said second VOD server for a

second list of all currently available VOD assets stored in said second VOD server;

receiving at said VOD gateway, in response to said requests to said first and

second VOD asset server, said first and second lists of all currently available VOD

assets stored in said first and second VOD servers, wherein said first and second lists of

all currently available VOD assets are in ~~different~~ protocols <u>unique to each of said first</u>

<u>and second VOD servers</u>;

translating at said VOD gateway said first and second lists into a generic protocol;

aggregating said first and second translated lists of all currently available VOD

assets to form a combined list of VOD assets;

receiving, at said VOD gateway, a request from said receiving station for a given

VOD program;

determining whether said request for said given VOD program specifies a VOD

program originating from said first VOD server or a VOD program originating from said

second VOD server via said received first and second list of all currently available VOD

assets from the respective first and second VOD servers ;

forwarding said request for said given VOD program to said first VOD server if

said given VOD program originates from said first VOD server;

forwarding said request for said given VOD program to said second VOD server if

said given VOD program originates from said first VOD server; and

receiving said given VOD program at said receiving station.

32. (original) In a broadcast communication system in accordance with claim 31,

wherein said first and second VOD systems further includes respective first and second

VOD business management systems, said method further comprising:

    recording the event that said given VOD program was received at said receiving station

as a purchase event of said given VOD program; and

    transmitting said purchase event of said given VOD program from said VOD gateway to

said first VOD business management system if said given VOD program originates from said first

VOD server; and

    transmitting said purchase event of said given VOD program from said VOD gateway to

said second VOD business management system if said given VOD program originates from said

second VOD server.

33. (original) A method in accordance with claim 32, wherein said given VOD program is a

video program.

34. (original) A method in accordance with claim 32, wherein said given VOD program is an

audio program.

35. (original) A method in accordance with claim 32, wherein said given VOD program is a

graphic program.

36. (original) A method in accordance with claim 32, wherein said given VOD program is a text

program.

37. (Currently amended) A video on demand (VOD) gateway for enabling the delivery to

subscriber equipment of VOD services from any of a plurality of incompatible <u>and non-</u>

<u>interoperable</u> VOD systems, the VOD gateway comprising:

  an asset gateway, for translating received lists of all currently available VOD assets from

each of the plurality of incompatible <u>and non-interoperable</u> VOD systems, wherein each of the

received lists is in a ~~different~~ protocol <u>unique to each of said plurality of incompatible and non-</u>

<u>interoperable VOD systems</u> and aggregating said translated lists of all currently available VOD

assets from each of the plurality of incompatible VOD systems to provide thereby a unified list of

VOD assets; and

  a transaction gateway, for conforming subscriber communications to the requirements of an

appropriate VOD system, and for conforming VOD system communications to the requirements

of an appropriate subscriber.

38. (previously presented) The VOD gateway of claim 37, wherein:

  the asset gateway communicating with the transaction gateway via a transaction servlet;

  an asset data manager adapted to communicate with each asset management system via a

respective interface program, the interface programs communicating with the asset data manager

via asset management application programming interfaces (APIs).

39. (previously presented) The VOD gateway of claim 37, wherein each VOD system has

associated with it a business management system (BMS), and wherein:

    the transaction gateway communicating with each BMS via a respective BMS program,

the BMS program communicating with the transaction gateway via transaction management APIs.

40. (previously presented) The VOD gateway of claim 39, further comprising:

    a database to store one or both of client state information and client transaction

information.

41. (previously presented) The VOD gateway of claim 37, wherein each VOD system has

associated with it VOD manager, the VOD gateway further comprising:

    a session gateway communicating with each VOD manager via a respective session interface

program, the session interface programs communicating with the session gateway via session

interface APIs.

42. (previously presented) The VOD gateway of claim 41, wherein each VOD manager

determines VOD channel parameters associated with a subscriber request, wherein:

    the session gateway communicating VOD channel parameters toward subscriber

equipment using one or both of Session Resource Management (SRM) and Session Set Up

Protocol (SSP).